

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) A secure data entry peripheral device configured as a secure keyboard device in a computer system, said device comprising:

means for at least one of entry, collection and reading of data information;

controller means for encoding/decoding said data information for presentation to the computer system; and

means associated with said controller for processing said encoded data information by performing thereon at least one operation amongst operations including encryption, decryption, data manipulation and non-volatile storage,

said processed encoded data information ~~providing a secure transaction when~~ being transmitted within the computer system as encrypted data, and when later decrypted and decoded for use at a remote location,

wherein said controller means is an encryption unit and said processing means comprises an electronic device capable of encrypting/decrypting and storing data entered via said secure keyboard device,

wherein said encryption unit and said electronic device are embedded within said secure keyboard device as a single integrated device,

and wherein said single integrated device contains non-volatile memory.

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12. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said single integrated device includes an internal EEPROM memory as an integral part of said device, which stores secure information.
13. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said single integrated device includes secure, protected encryption keys and data as an internal and integral non-removable element.
14. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said single integrated device further comprises a secure command interpreter which operates to manipulate commands.

15. (currently amended) The device of claim 1 wherein said single integrated device ~~is capable of~~ comprises means for preventing unauthorized use of software programs.
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21. (deleted)
22. (currently amended) A method of providing secure data entry in a computer system, said method comprising the steps of:
- performing at least one of entry, collection and reading of data information via a standard data entry device configured as a secure keyboard device;
  - encoding said data information within said standard data entry device for presentation to the computer system; and
  - processing, within said standard data entry device, said encoded data information by performing thereon at least one operation amongst operations including encryption, decryption, data manipulation and non-volatile storage,
- said processed encoded data information ~~providing a secure transaction when being~~ transmitted within the computer system as encrypted data, and ~~when later~~ decrypted and decoded for use at a remote location.

wherein said encoding step is performed by an encryption unit and said processing step is performed by an electronic device capable of encrypting/decrypting and storing data entered via said encryption unit,

wherein said encryption unit and said electronic device comprise a single integrated device, and

wherein said single integrated device ~~does not use removable media such as a Smartcard, security token and the like~~ contains non-volatile memory.

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